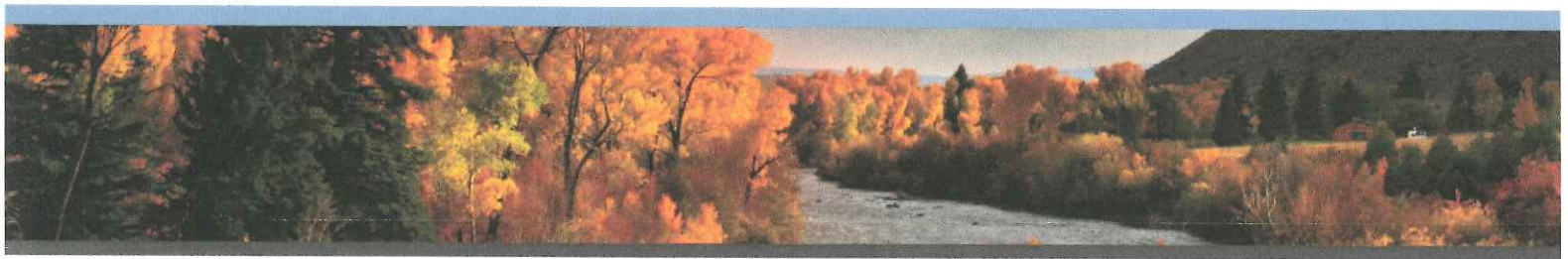




Colorado Water Congress EST 1958
THE LEADING VOICE OF COLORADO'S WATER COMMUNITY

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Bill No.: **SB 072** Position: **SUPPORT**

Legislative Fact Sheet

CONCERNING THE DELETION OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR A FINAL PERMIT FOR ALL WELLS WITHDRAWING DESIGNATED GROUND WATER FROM THE DENVER BASIN AQUIFERS

Sponsors:

Sen. Hodge
Sen. Baumgardener

Summary:

Removes the July 1, 1991 threshold date for eliminating the requirement for persons holding a conditional water well permit to withdraw designated ground water from the Denver Basin to obtain a final permit and makes conditional permit a final permit for all such wells.

Rationale:

SB13-072 would reconcile very old well permits in the Denver Basin aquifers within the designated basins. It applies procedures approved by the General Assembly in 1991 for new Denver Basin wells to older wells that have had conditional permits for almost 50 years.

For the Town of Bennett and the Strasburg Sanitation and Water District, this bill will allow them to serve existing and future homes and businesses. If the bill is not enacted by the General Assembly, current final permitting policies will drastically reduce their water supplies, forcing them to secure water supplies from irrigated farms or to develop new wells in the Denver Basin. Acquiring irrigation water and transferring the historical consumptive use to municipal use will result in crop lands being permanently dried up.

SB13-072 allows these communities to secure final well permits without changing any current water uses, without changing the well administration oversight of the Groundwater Commission or the State Engineer, without competing with agriculture and without creating a unique class of well permits that is different than post-1991 Denver Basin wells located.